



USOAS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

U/N RECD

7718209

ACTION MEMORANDUM

S/S A

cc: WS

FD

RA

Original to O/FADRC:

JUL 11 1977

USA

7/11

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COPIES TO:

ARA
F:WEB

TO:

The Secretary

ISOAS

THROUGH:

ARA - Terence A. Todman

ISOAS

FROM:

USOAS - Robert E. White REW

SUBJECT:

Strengthening the Inter-American Human Rights Commission

EXPEDITE

DRAFT

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Based on the joint resolution passed at Grenada, we intend to press for greatly increased resources for the IAHRC in OAS budget hearings that begin in September. Venezuela, Costa Rica and Panama can be counted on to lead the campaign, with strong backing from our delegation and demarches by our ambassadors in most OAS capitals. The IAHRC has prepared a budget request for FY 1978 of \$629,000, nearly double the current year figure, and will use the increased funds for five new positions, three commission meetings in Washington and special travel by the Chairman.

We expect quiet opposition from the Southern Cone countries plus several Central American states most criticized for human rights offenses. The "politicization" of the Commission will be their primary criticism. Opposition on budget grounds will be difficult to sustain in light of Carlos Andres Perez' speech to the OAS last week in which he promised Venezuela would cover any added costs of IAHRC operations from its own contribution.

With your approval, we intend to announce that the US will invite the IAHRC to make an on-site investigation in this country at any time; we also plan to encourage like-minded states to make similar announcements. Costa Rica and Venezuela will be prepared to do so and others, especially the Caribbean countries, are likely to follow suit.

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GDS

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SGP

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Recommendation:

That you approve this course of action, including demarches to a number of OAS capitals to elicit support for a sizable increase in the IAHRC budget and announcement of an invitation to the Commission to visit.

Approve WE

Disapprove _____

JUL 11 1977

MD

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ext. 29445:7/8/77

Concurrences: L/ARA:Ms. Armstrong *MD*
D/HA:Mr. Schneider *MD*
L/HR:Mr. Runyon *MD*

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